

**System and Method for Facilitating Bilateral and Multilateral Decision-Making**Abstract

10 A method for facilitating evaluation, in connection with the procurement or delivery of products or services, in at least one of (i) a potential financial transaction and (ii) operation of an enterprise, each context involving a member of a first class of parties in a first role and a member of a second class of counterparties in a second role. The method of one embodiment includes:

15 a. obtaining from each of the parties in the first class and storing in a first digital storage medium responses to a first set of questions eliciting revelation of preferences that can be used to estimate the closeness of such party's fit with a counterparty in such context;

20 b. obtaining from each of the counterparties in the second class and storing in a second digital storage medium responses to a second set of questions eliciting revelation of preferences that can be used to estimate the closeness of such counterparty's fit with a party in such context;

c. deriving, in a first computer process, from the responses of each such party a first preference profile for each such party;

25 d. deriving, in a second computer process, from the responses of each such counterparty a second preference profile for each such counterparty;

30 e. for each party, analyzing, in a third computer process, the preference profile of such party in relation to the preference profiles of the counterparties to derive a first list of counterparties providing a relatively close fit of such party's preferences with those of counterparties on the list and communicating the list to such party.

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